

Message Text

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APPROVED BY ARA:HARYAN

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ARA:AFISHLOW

ARA/PAF:PBJOHNSON

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM, US

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY SUMMARY - JAN 26-31, 1976

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM RYAN, ACTING

1. ROGERS TRIP: BILL ROGERS DEPARTED ON JAN 29 TO ATTEND A PANAMA CANAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. HE PLANS TO VISIT MANAGUA, SAN JOSE AND CARACAS BEFORE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON ON MONDAY.

2. PRIOR TO BILL'S ARRIVAL IN PANAMA, UPI CARRIED A STORY ON JAN 29 BASED ON BILL'S INTERVIEW ON THE AID-SPONSORED PROGRAM, QUOTE, OVERSEAS MISSION, UNQUOTE, IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE U.S. AND PANAMANIAN
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NEGOTIATORS HAD ALREADY AGREED UPON A 20-YEAR DURATION FOR THE NEW CANAL TREATY. THE UPI REPORT TOOK BILL'S REMARKS OUT OF CONTEXT. THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED UPI WITH AN APPROPRIATE CLARIFICATION, POINTING OUT THAT BILL WAS SPEAKING IN GENERIC TERMS AND THAT HE HAD ALSO NOTED THAT THE DURATION OF THE TREATY WOULD BE FOR, QUOTE, A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, UNQUOTE.

3. IDB LEGISLATION: EARLIER IN THE WEEK, BILL TESTIFIED BEFORE SENATOR HUMPHREY'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE IDB LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE. THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO REPORT THE BILL OUT FAVORABLY. THE ISSUE OF CURTAILING IFI LENDING TO COUNTRIES ABUSING HUMAN RIGHTS CAME UP. BOTH SENATORS HUMPHREY AND CASE NOTED THAT CONGRESS WAS TIRED OF MAKING FUNDS AVAILABLE TO COUNTRIES ENGAGED IN SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. CASE WAS THE MORE VOCAL AND SUGGESTED THAT CONGRESS WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT NOT TO HAVE THE SAME STANDARDS APPLY TO MULTILATERAL LENDING THAT ARE NOW BEING APPLIED TO BILATERAL ASSISTANCE, E.G. A HARKIN-TYPE AMENDMENT TO THE IFI LEGISLATION.

4. U.S. CITIZENS IN MEXICAN JAILS: BILL LUERS JOINED SCA ADMINISTRATOR LEONARD WALENTYNOWICZ IN APPEARING BEFORE CONGRESSMAN FASCELL TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF U.S. PRISONERS IN MEXICAN JAILS. FASCELL WAS UNDERSTANDING AND USED UP VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE AFTERNOON DEVELOPING USEFUL BACKGROUND. STARK WAS LESS UNDERSTANDING AND BECAME FURIOUS AT WHAT HE SAW AS STATE DEPARTMENT DISINTEREST AND BUNGLING. HE EVEN SUGGESTED AT ONE POINT THAT THE U.S. SHOULD TAKE A LESSON FROM THE BRITISH, WHO WITHDREW THEIR AMBASSADOR FROM CHILE BECAUSE OF TORTURE TO A BRITISH CITIZEN. IN HIS TESTIMONY, LUERS TRIED TO PLACE THE PRISONERS ISSUE IN THE LARGER CONTEXT OF U.S./MEXICAN RELATIONS.

5. BILL LUERS SPOKE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE COLLEGE ON JAN 26. THE GROUP COULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON THE CUBAN OBJECTIVES IN ANGOLA.

6. BILL MAILLAIRD SERVED AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE USDEL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION. CONFIDENTIAL

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TION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE IN SAN SALVADOR FROM JAN 26-31. HE WILL RESUME HIS VISITS TO CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CAPITALS THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THE U.S. POSITION ON THE PROPOSED OAS CHARTER REFORM WITH HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS. USOAS WILL BE SENDING A WRAP-UP CABLE SUMMARIZING THE RESULTS OF BILL'S MEETINGS WITH CENTRAL AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

7. AL-FISHLOW TRAVELED TO LIMA LAST WEEK FOR THREE DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS-ON THE MARCONA DISPUTE. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FOURTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, THERE IS NO DOUBT THE PERUVIANS ARE PREPARED TO PAY FOR MARCONA. THE PROBLEM IS HOW MUCH. HAVING INITIALLY JUSTIFIED THE EXPROPRIATIONS BY GENERATING DEBTS OF WELL OVER DOLS 150 MILLION, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT VIEWS ANY POSITIVE BALANCE AS EXTRAORDINARY PROGRESS.

MARCONA STARTS FROM THE OTHER END OF THE SPECTRUM AND IS NOT TERRIBLY SYMPATHETIC. WE HAVE SIX MORE WEEKS TO TRY TO SORT IT OUT. ANY SETTLEMENT WILL PROBABLY DEPEND UPON OUR INGENUITY IN FINANCING IT -- SINCE PERUVIAN EXCHANGE RESERVES HAVE DECLINED PRECIPITOUSLY.

8. DAVID POLLOCK, HEAD OF ECLA'S WASHINGTON OFFICE, SPOKE ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION'S PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE AT AL FISHLOW'S ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FORUM. AMONG POLLOCK'S COMMENTS: (A) THE HEMISPHERE NOW HAS THREE SOMEWHAT DUPLICATIVE AND OVERLAPPING BODIES -- OAS/CIES, ECLA AND SELA; AND B) THE U.S. SHOULD NOT SO ADAMANTLY OPPOSE THE LATIN/CARIBBEAN MEMBERS ON THE EXCLUSIVITY ISSUE. (THEY HAVE EXCLUDED THE U.S. FROM THE WORK OF SOME COMMITTEES, WHILE, AS A FULL MEMBER OF ECLA, WE INSIST ON THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE.) AT SEVERAL POINTS, IT BECAME APPARENT POLLOCK FEARS THE LATINS WILL SHIFT ATTENTION AWAY FROM ECLA AND TOWARD SELA. THIS POSSIBILITY, HE CONTENDED, MIGHT VERY WELL BECOME REAL WERE THE U.S. TO REMAIN TOO UNYIELDING ON THE EXCLUSIVITY ISSUE IN ECLA.

9. THERE ARE TEN DOMESTIC FORUM TRIPS SCHEDULED IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH. WE ARE TRYING TO AVOID THE MISTAKES
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MADE IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BY BETTER PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF THE SPEAKER DURING THE PLANNING STAGE. EACH SPEAKER WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A NEWLY ASSEMBLED BRIEFING BOOK ON CURRENT LATIN AMERICAN TOPICS. MOST OF THE MARCH TRAVEL IS CONNECTED WITH BUREAU PARTICIPATION IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION AND THE LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN MANY A MOON THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THESE IMPORTANT ACADEMIC MEETINGS. INGERSOLL

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